(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports which appeared in Washington Times on 5/2/96 indicating some countries of Asian Continent are supplying nuclear weapons technology to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with reaction thereto;

(c) whether such supplies are violating anti-proliferation laws;

(d) whether Government propose to take some measured to highlight the issue at international forum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have seen press reports on supply of equipments for use in uranium enrichment plant in Pakistan by China. These reports pertain to supply of 5,000 ring magnets and indicate China's continuing assistance for Pakistan's clandestine weapons oriented nuclear programme. These reports have been denied by China and Pakistan.

(d) and (e) The Media reports are attributed to US sources. Government have taken up the matter bilaterally with US authorities in order to ascertain facts.

Loss incurred on Post Card

212. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss likely to be incurred on production, sale and delivery of postcards during the current year, and how it compares with the loss incurred during the preceding two years;

(b) the estimated average loss incurred per unit of postcards during the current year and during the preceding two years; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to minimise the loss, especially that in respect of the postcards used by the elite class in respect of various TV quiz programmes etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The estimated loss on production, sale and delivery of Postcards during the current year i.e. 1995-96 is Rs. 99.54 crores. The loss incurred on Postcard during the preceding two years is as under:—

	Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
(1)	1993-94	75.40
(2)	1994-95	94.13

(b) The estimated average loss per unit of Postcard during the current year i.e. 1995-96 is Rs. 1.68 and the loss per unit during the preceding two years is as under:—

	Year	Loss (in Rs.)
1.	1993-94	1.42
2.	1994-95	1.58

(c) This matter is under consideration of the Govt. by suitably amending the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.